

In the Specification:**Please Amend Paragraph [0010] as follows:**

[0010] Administering novel GHRH analog proteins (U.S. Pat Nos. 5,847,066; 5,846,936; 5,792,747; 5,776,901; 5,696,089; 5,486,505; 5,137,872; 5,084,442; 5,036,045; 5,023,322; 4,839,344; 4,410,512, RE33,699) or synthetic or naturally occurring peptide fragments of GHRH (U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,833,166; 4,228,158; 4,228,156; 4,226,857; 4,224,316; 4,223,021; 4,223,020; 4,223, 019) for the purpose of increasing release of growth hormone have been reported. A GHRH analog containing the following mutations have been reported (U.S. Patent No. 5,846,936): Tyr at position 1 to His; Ala at position 2 to Val, Leu, or others; Asn at position 8 to Gln, Ser, or Thr; Gly at position 15 to Ala or Leu; Met at position 27 to Nle or Leu; and Ser at position 28 to Asn. The GHRH analog is the subject of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/624,268 (“the ‘268 patent application”), now U.S. Patent No. 6,551,996, which teaches application of a GHRH analog containing mutations that improve the ability to elicit the release of growth hormone. In addition, the ‘268 patent application relates to the treatment of growth deficiencies; the improvement of growth performance; the stimulation of production of growth hormone in an animal at a greater level than that associated with normal growth; and the enhancement of growth utilizing the administration of growth hormone releasing hormone analog and is herein incorporated by reference.

Please Amend Paragraph [0167] as follows:

[0167] **Optimized Plasmid Backbone.** One aspect of the current invention is the optimized plasmid backbone. The synthetic plasmids presented below contain eukaryotic sequences that are synthetically optimized for species specific mammalian transcription. An existing pSP-HV-GHRH plasmid (“pAV0125”) (SeqID#29), was synthetically optimized to form a new plasmid (“pAV0201”)(SeqID#30). The plasmid pAV0125 was described in U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/624,268 filed on July 24, 2000, 2000 and titled “Super Active Porcine Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone Analog” with Schwartz, et al., listed as inventors, (“the Schwartz ‘268 Application”), now U.S. Patent No. 6,551,996. This 3,534 bp plasmid pAV0125 (SeqID #29) contains a plasmid backbone with various component from different commercially available plasmids, for example, a synthetic promoter SPc5-12 (SeqID.#7), a modified porcine